GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:790
ANSWERED ON:03.03.2008
DECLINE IN AREA OF WHEAT
Gaikwad Shri Eknath Mahadeo;Mane Smt. Nivedita;Patel Shri Kishanbhai Vestabhai;Sai Shri Nand Kumar;Singh Shri Ganesh;Singh Shri Mohan;Singh Shri Sugrib;Yadav Shri Anirudh Prasad (Sadhu);Yaskhi Shri Madhu Goud

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the target fixed for production and procurement of wheat in the year 2008;

(b) whether there has been a decrease in the area under wheat cultivation in the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(d) whether the Government has made any study to find out the reasons for such a trend; and

(e) if so, the details and the outcome thereof and the remedial steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE(SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA)

(a): A target of 75.50 million tonnes has been fixed for production of wheat in the crop-year 2007-08.Since procurement of foodgrains under Minimum Support Price operations carried out by Government Agencies is open-ended, no targets are fixed.

(b)&(c): Yes, Sir. The State-wise details of area coverage under wheat in major producing States during the crop year 2007-08 is given in the Annexure.

(d)&)e): Government reviews the progress of sowing of crops on a continuous basis in the weekly Crop Weather Watch Group meetings. To enhance the production of wheat, National Food Security Mission has been launched since Rabi 2007-08. It aims at increasing the production of wheat by 8 million tonnes by the end of 11th Five Year Plan through area expansion, productivity enhancement, restoring soil fertility, supply of micro nutrients,among others.